Modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant

1609. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant is completed;

(b) if not, how much time and money will be required for the same;

(c) how much time and money was required for the completion of original plant; and

(d) what are the production figures for the years 1994-95; and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Government have approved the Bokaro Steel Plant (Stage I) Modernisation at an estimated cost of Rs. 1792.90 crores with the commissioning schedule of July, 1997.

(c) The construction work of Bokaro Steel Plant (original — 1.7 MT) started in April 1968 was progressively completed between October, 1972 (commissioning of first Blast Furnace) and February, 1978 (commissioning of third and last Blast Furnace) at a cost of Rs. 981.34 crores.

(d) The production of saleable steel by this Steel Plant during the last two years is as follows:

	(In million tonnes)
1994-95	3.17
1995-96	3.33

Pre-feasibility Report on Exploration of CBM

1610. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pre-feasibility report was submitted to SAIL by ONGC with the proposal to form joint venture company to explore Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Parbatpur Mahal-Sitanala area of Dhanbad district in Bihar;

(b) if so, when it was submitted and the response of SAIL;

(c) whether any private party has recently submitted a similar offer; and

(d) if so, whether they have similar expertise as ONGC in CBM exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) SAIL had received a proposal to form joint venture company to explore Coal Bed Methane (CBM) from the ONGC in early 1996, and also from a private company subsequently.

The Screening Committee, functioning in the Ministry of Coal, had identified certain coal mining blocks including *Sitanala, Mahal and Parbatpur in Jharia* Coalfields for captive development by SAIL. SAIL's primary interest in these blocks was for coking coal. After further studies SAIL found the geo-mining conditions to be difficult and communicated their disinterest in the exploitation for mining purposes in these blocks to the Ministry of Coal. Having given up the interest in these blocks SAIL did not take further action on the above mentioned two proposals.

Contract for Import of Coal

1611. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Vizag Steel Plant has awarded a contract for importing coal to an Australian Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether global tenders were invited for the purchase of the coal;

(d) if so, the names of the firm who submitted tenders alongwith the rates quoted by each; and

(e) if not, the reasons for placing the order on the above mentioned company?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a)